

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /105 W
----- 093394

R 031250 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2359

UNCLAS HAMBURG 0409

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: HEINZ RUHNAU, HAMBURG MINISTER OF INTERIOR, LIKELY
TO RESIGN

SENATOR HEINZ RUHNAU, 44, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IN THE HAMBURG STATE GOVERNMENT SINCE DECEMBER 1965, MEMBER OF NATIONAL BOARD OF SPD, AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF HAMBURG SPD CHAPTER, HAS BEEN NOMINATED BY NATIONAL HQ OF UNION OF FOOD, STIMULANTS, HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES (NGG- DGB) TO BECOME ITS REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF CO- OP AG, NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN CONSUMER COOPERATIVE IN HAMBURG. ANNUAL SALES VOLUME OF CO- OP APPROXIMATELY TWO BILLION U. S. DOLLARS. NGG HAS PRIVILEGE OF NOMINATING CANDIDATE TO REPRESENT LABOR ON 8- MEMBER BOARD OF CO- OP AG MANAGEMENT. RUHNAU PRESENTLY IN THE U. S. AND ADMITTED HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT BUT HIS DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. IN INTERVIEW WITH WASHINGTON ARD- TV CORRESPONDENT KLAUS BOELLING, RUHNAU STRESSED THAT FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF OFFERED NOMINATION WOULD NOT MEAN WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTY POLITICAL WORK. RUHNAU STATED THAN ON THE CONTRARY, HE INTENDS TO FIGHT FOR CHALLENGED RE- ELECTION TO NATIONAL BOARD OF SPD AT FORTH- COMING NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HANNOVER. RUHNAU' S READINESS TO CONSIDER NOMINATION, AND SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENT, IS EXPLAINABLE BY INCREASING INFLUENCE OF LEFTIST YOUTH IN SPD WHICH PRECLUDES RUHNAU' S FURTHER ADVANCEMENT IN THE PARTY FOR THE TIME BEING AS HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE " RIGHTIST" IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ESTABLISHMENT. RUHNAU EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO REMAIN
AS HAMBURG MINISTER UNTIL EXPIRATION OF PRESENT TERM OF HAMBURG
STATE ASSEMBLY IN WHICH CASE HE COULD NOT ASSUME CO- OP POST UNTIL
THE SPRING OF 1974. RUHNAU HAS LABOR UNION BACKGROUND AND
HEADED NORTH GERMAN DISTRICT OF METAL WORKERS UNION FROM
1959 THROUGH 1965. BROGAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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